

We claim:

1. A method of inhibiting cancerous tumor growth in mammals, comprising:

administering a member of the corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) superfamily or analog thereof, wherein the 20th amino acid from the N-terminus of a 41 amino acid peptide or the 19th amino acid from the N-terminal of a 40 amino acid peptide of the CRH superfamily or analog thereof is replaced with a D-amino acid peptide, wherein said superfamily peptide or analog thereof has minimal activity to lower blood pressure and the molecule retains anti-proliferative action.

2. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the CRH peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the CRH superfamily peptide or analog thereof comprises Cyclo(30-33)-Acetyl-Pro<sup>4</sup>, D-Phe<sup>12</sup>, D-Glu<sup>20</sup>, Nle<sup>21,38</sup>, Glu<sup>30</sup>, D-His<sup>32</sup>, Lys<sup>33</sup>-hCRH(4-41) or Cyclo(30-33)-Acetyl-Pro<sup>4</sup>, D-Phe<sup>12</sup>, D-Glu<sup>20</sup>, Nle<sup>18,21</sup>, Glu<sup>30</sup>, D-Ala<sup>32</sup>, Lys<sup>33</sup>- carp urotensin (4-41).

4. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the cancerous tumor growth is a carcinoma, carcinosarcoma, melanoma or sarcoma.

5. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the cancerous tumor growth is bladder, brain, breast, colon, lung, prostate or skin cancer.

6. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the cancer is of bone, cartilage, connective tissue or striated muscle.

7. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the administration comprises topical, systemic or parenteral administration.

8. The method as in Claim 7, wherein the administration is to the skin or mucous membrane of an animal diagnosed as being at risk of a melanoma.

9. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the CRH superfamily peptide or analog thereof comprises human/rat [D-Glu<sup>20</sup>] CRH.

10. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the administering is by intravenous, intradermal, subcutaneous, intranasal or intrabuccal means.

11. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the CRH superfamily peptide or analog thereof is formulated for sustained-release.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the the CRH superfamily peptide or analog thereof comprises a cyclo(30-33)-hCRH.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the the CRH superfamily peptide or analog thereof comprises a [D-Glu<sup>20</sup>]-cyclo(30-33)-hCRH.

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